

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
/033 W

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P 231159Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6098

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 MONTEVIDEO 0973

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, UY
SUBJECT: ABA VISIT

REF: (A) STATE 71489 (B) STATE 72921

1. PER BUTLER QUERY REF (A), EMBASSY HAS CONFIRMED THAT FOUR LAWYERS HAVE BEEN RELEASED FROM PRISON UNDER "CONDITIONAL LIBERTY". NATURE OF CONDITIONAL LIBERTY UNDER URUGUAYAN LAW VARIES ACCORDING TO INDIVIDUAL CASE AND WE WILL BE INQUIRING AFTER THIS POINT DURING CONTACTS WITH FOUR, WHICH WE EXPECT TO MAKE DURING COURSE OF COMING WEEK.

2. PER REF (B), WE HAVE MADE RESERVATIONS FOR BUTLER AND REQUE AT COLUMBIA PALACE HOTEL; APPROXIMATE DAILY RATE DOLLARS 15.50. AS ABA MISSION IS NOT AN OFFICIAL VISIT NOR ARE BUTLER AND REQUE INVITED GUESTS OF GOU, WE ARE CERTAIN THAT MISSION WILL BE EXPECTED TO STAND ALL LOCAL EXPENSES. FONOFF WILL PUT CAR AND DRIVER AT MISSION'S DISPOSITION DURING VISIT, BUT WE SUGGEST ITS USE BE LIMITED TO OFFICIAL CALLS WITH LOCAL TAXIS, WHICH ARE INEXPENSIVE, USED FOR PRIVATE CONTACTS. WE WILL PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION FOR WEDNESDAY EVENING DINNER AT RESIDENCE.

3. IN VIEW OF OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED BY ADVANCE OF MISSION'S
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ARRIVAL TO SUNDAY AFTERNOON, I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE SENIOR STAFF MEET WITH BUTLER AND REQUE SUNDAY EVENING TO DISCUSS THEIR MISSION.

4. I HAVE REQUESTED THE FOREIGN MINISTER TO SET UP CALLS BY THE MISSION ON HIMSELF; PRESIDENT MENDEZ; JUSTICE MINISTER BAYARDO BENGUA; PRESIDENT AND TWO VICE PRESIDENTS OF THE

COUNCIL OF STATE; PRESIDENT OF SUPREME MILITARY TRIBUNAL COL. SILVA LEDESMA; PRESIDENT OF THE COURT OF JUSTICE (EX-SUPREME COURT); AND THE DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF LAW AND SOCIAL SCIENCES. WE HOPE TO ARRANGE THESE ALL FOR MONDAY, APRIL 3, ALTHOUGH THERE MAY BE SOME SPILLOVER INTO FOLLOWING DAY. WE HAVE ALSO REQUESTED EN CAMERA SESSION WITH PRESIDENT AND OTHER SENIOR GOU OFFICIALS (TO BE DETERMINED BY LIMITS OF GOU INTERNAL PROTOCOL) FOR FRIDAY MORNING, APRIL 7.

5. IN ADDITION TO DINNER AT RESIDENCE WEDNESDAY EVENING, MISSION HAS BEEN INVITED TUESDAY APRIL 4 FOR EARLY EVENING DISCUSSION WITH GROUP OF 6-7 PROMINENT LAWYERS AT HOME OF RAMON DIAZ, ATTORNEY IN PRIVATE PRACTICE AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF BUSQUEDA, PRESTIGE ECONOMIC POLICY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS MONTHLY. MISSION HAS ALSO BEEN INVITED TO MEET APRIL 4 OVER LUNCH WITH GROUP OF YOUNGER LAWYERS ASSEMBLED BY PROMINENT ANGLO-URUGUAYAN LAWYER, ED. MCGILLICUDDY. FINALLY, I HAVE SUGGESTED TO AIR FORCE BRIGADER BORAD THE USEFULNESS OF HIS ASSEMBLING GROUP OF SENIOR MILITARY TO MEET WITH MISSION EARLY EVENING OF THURSDAY, APRIL 6.

6. IF BUTLER HAS ANY QUESTION RE ABOVE ARRANGEMENTS, PLEASE LET US KNOW ASAP. WE WILL PLAY AN ACTIVE BUT STRICTLY BEHIND-THE-SCENES ROLE, WHILE KEEPING A DISCREET DISTANCE FROM THE MISSION AND ITS WORK HERE.

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7. WE ARE AWAITING WITH INTEREST DATA ON PRIVATE CONTACTS CONTEMPLATED BY BUTLER AND REQUE (REF A). IN THE MEANTIME, WE ARE DRAWING UP OUR OWN LIST OF THOSE MISSION MAY WISH TO SEE. IN ADDITION TO FOUR ARRESTEES AND THOSE MENTIONED PARA 5, WE SUGGEST JUAN CARLOS BLANCO, FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER AND PRESENTLY ADVISOR TO THE ARMED FORCES POLITICAL COMMITTEE; ENRIQUE BARBAGELATA, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION RECENTLY FORCED OUT OF HIS LAW SCHOOL PROFESSORSHIP THROUGH GOU PRESSURE; ENRIQUE TARIGO, BAR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT; AND LUIS JIMENEZ DE ARECHAGA, URUGUAYAN MEMBER OF THE WORLD COURT.

8. WE HAVE RECEIVED COPY OF TESTIMONY ON IRAN BEFORE FRAZER SUB-COMMITTEE AND ARE ARRANGING FOR EXCERPTS, INCLUDING BUTLER STATEMENT AND APPENDIX TO BE CIRCULATED TO A FEW TOP GOU CIVIL AND MILITARY OFFICIALS. IN THIS WAY, WE HOPE TO PREPARE SOME OF THOSE WHO WILL MEET WITH MISSION AND TO REACH SOME OF THE INFLUENTIAL MILITARY WHO WOULD NOT NORMALLY EXPECT TO MEET WITH MISSION.

9. IN ITS DISCUSSIONS WITH GOU CIVIL AND MILITARY OFFICIALS, BUTLER WILL PROBABLY FIND IT EXTREMELY USEFUL TO BE INFORMED ON ACTIONS AFFECTING JUDICIAL SYSTEM TAKEN BY NEIGHBORING CHILE AND ARGENTINA, ESPECIALLY THE LATTER. IN SPITE OF SUBERSIVE THREAT OF AT LEASE EQUAL INTENSITY TO THAT EXPERIENCED HERE, WE ARE UNDER IMPRESSION THAT

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NEITHER HAS GONE AS FAR AS THE GOU IN DISMANTLING LEGAL INSTITUTIONS AND UNDERMINING THE RULE OF LAW.

10. IN VIEW OF VERY HELPFUL ROLE PLAYED BY AMBASSADOR PEREZ CALDAS DURING NAS VISIT, AND HIS INCLINATION TO DO SOFOR ABA, WE SUGGEST THAT BUTLER AND DEPARTMENT SHARE AS MANY CONFIDENCES AS POSSIBLE WITH HIM AND KEEP HIM FULLY BRIEFED ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE VISIT.

11. SINCE EMBASSY WILL HAVE TO START FIRING UP THESE ARRANGEMENTS BEGINNING MONDAY, MARCH 27, WHEN LOCAL HOLIDAY SEASON ENDS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE BUTLER'S VIEWS BY THAT DATE.

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